

## A Shrewsbury Wooing.

(By MARION HELL.)

"Do you think I could do that?" asked a woman.

Her voice seemed to come out of the clear sky. Theodore looked around and up. She was on the bridge above him, and was gazing down into his boat upon his occupation with a look of intense interest. He knew her by sight as a girl of gentle and good nature, a friend of a Mrs. Riker, who lived in the neighborhood. She also knew him by sight as a working partner of old Sam Harlow, who acted as middleman between the Shrewsbury River crab beds and a fish stall in a third-rate New York market.

"Do you want to come down and try?" asked he.

"Very much indeed."

"Don't really see how I can run the boat up close enough to the bank; the tide is so low," continued Theodore.

"Just run her ashore as high as you can," she said, a trifle imperiously, "and I'll get aboard somehow."

She disappeared from his view and began to walk across the bridge.

Theodore disconsolately laid down his net, and, leaning to look up at her, he saw her moving herself and boat along by pushing against the cool, wet planks of the bridge.

Whenever an extra intuition showed itself, the notion of his boat among the planks he had conceived the diversion of exhibiting himself, for he was in no desperate hurry to have his day interfered with by a strange young woman.

She was ready waiting by the time he neared the shore, and when he took the pole out of his net and pushed the boat well up into the sun she stepped in easily without any help.

Even before sailing herself she picked up one of the oars and with two or three vigorous dips sent the boat well into the river.

"This is the coolest proceeding I've seen for months," thought the young man smilingly, and, glancing his pole he painstakingly pushed the boat into the river again. She looked at him in amazement.

"More crabs close in," he said, ironically, "but you were in the middle of the river when I spoke to you, and there's no time to lose."

"And I was served just right for it, too," he said, "that is, I fairly got a crab."

The girl said nothing. Theodore looked at her with an appreciation of color. While looking he made the comforting discovery that the girl was pretty, and with the discovery he lost all his caution and began to devote himself to her.

"You are still cold for a while and watch me," he said with a radiant smile. "This business looks mighty easy, but there's a trick to it all the same. See that big fellow ahead? I've got him."

With an athletic sweep he brought up the dripping net full of white-fleshed crabs, and dumped the mess into the bottom of the boat. But as he did so, he saw that the crab which made straight for a shelter under the young woman's dress. She screamed.

"That's all right! He won't hurt you!" she said.

The crab had brought him, under the fashion of his skin, a condition of periodical quivering and was looking fixedly and wickedly at her.

"I never can stay in this boat; please let me out!" implored the girl.

"I beg of you, my word," said Theodore, "you can sit in a boat full of crabs and you will never get out. Only you must put your hand near them."

She sat down on the half-closed, but forgot her prejudice in the most excited. Sweet! Another crab.

"This is a catch-one, and perfectly harmless," said Theodore, "but you must put your hand near them. See that big fellow ahead? I've got him."

"Oh, dear, no! Take him out yourself!" she said, shuddering.

For the next few moments Theodore worked quickly and successfully, inspired with the knowledge that his audience of one was watching him with admiration, smiling and laughing. He took the crab which made straight for a shelter under the young woman's dress. She screamed.

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"You are making fun of me. No one ever goes crabbing at low tide, and, of course not, but we will fish for them. Will you come?"

"Oh, yes, if I may. If Aunt Emma has nothing for me to do, I'll go with you."

"I'll wait for you at Mrs. Riker's landing. I'll be there at 12. Now change places with me again, for it's a long row back."

He took of his coat and made her a better seat and then bent his back to the oars. Instead of the jerky jerky dip he pulled a long, strong sweep that sent the little boat shuddering through the water like a creature of life.

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"ever?" he cried in delight. "Well, come with me some night for a million dollars," she said.

"There's nothing horrible about oars," he said.

"Where do you go oar fishing?" she asked.

"Here on the Shrewsbury, of course; there are loads of them in the mudholes and in the seaweed."

She jerked her hand out of the water.

"Oh, they don't float up on top in the daytime, they only do that at night and at certain seasons. By some nights when the water is highly phosphorescent you can trace them by the sinuous glowing track they leave."

"I should like to see that!" she exclaimed.

"Come out to-night then," he said faithfully, knowing perfectly well that he could not do so. But his heart was leaping at the thought that he had really come out to go with him on a pleasure row, without any business-like project of fishing behind it.

"All right," he said gruffly, and shot away down the stream. But his heart was leaping at the thought that he had really come out to go with him on a pleasure row, without any business-like project of fishing behind it.

"I wouldn't have her first catch boiled alive," it would be a pity to lose her. He mused. "I'd like to be a gold piece that she doesn't know they're cooking alive."

When he rowed up to Riker's in the evening, he found his spirit at disenchanted but one faint figure. He roared now, experimentally.

"It is—Hettie May," said her joyfully on the bank.

Theodore bumped the boat joyfully on the bank.

"Aunt not coming?" was his brisk query.

"I asked her to come, and she said—she said, 'if you're not big enough now to go alone without me, I'll wait for you, I'll like to know when you will be.'"

"She's coming to tell you I won't go," said Hettie May.

"What?" said Theodore, in sudden wrath.

"Oh, no; I've left her alone all day and I can't leave her to-night."

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the fifth day he wandered disconsolately around the various spots associated most closely with his life. He found three himself abidingly down by the mountain laurel that had seen on their first row, and began to count the period of their acquaintance.

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## Golf and Girls.

(Copyright, 1924, by Madge Robertson.)

There is a brilliant record by a woman on golf links which would of itself silence forever all remarks reflecting upon the inability of the feminine mind to fathom the mysteries of golf sticks.

According to the volume in the Baltimore Library, Lady Margaret Scott, after performing several other brilliant feats, "defeated Mr. A. H. Doleman on the ladies' course at Lytham, St. Anne's in a local match by a 3 and 3, playing, establishing a record (feminine speaking) for the links—a record of 80, which would have been several less but for an unfortunate bunker resulting in an 8 at the last hole."

The young lady's style of play also shattered the feeble objection that golf was not a graceful pastime for women. Here is the style of a golf player